

Public Works Committee

Minutes from 5/02/2006 DRAFT

Present: Vince O'Connor, Rob Crowner, Michael Cann, Robert Pariseau (staff liaison)

1. Road Paving

- Do not do N. Pleasant St. from Triangle to Massachusetts Ave. because of construction at UMass in next two years
- Do sewer section on Pelham Road and pave in 2008
- Pave Hulst Rd – small section near intersection of Bay Rd in 2007
- Remove Farmington Rd from 2007
- Year 2, take off N. Pleasant St. from Amity to E. Pleasant St. because downtown sidewalks will not be finished
- Re-evaluate roads observed by PWC on their survey and re-submit these into Pavement Management Plan by DPW
- Do drainage on Henry St. in 2007

2. PWC Motion

- support paving schedule as listed above to Select Board - Unanimous

3. Proposed annual report to town meeting circulated by Rob Crowner and approved as amended by PWC – Unanimous Approval

4. New Business – Warrant articles

- Chapter 90 – the PWC supports this article Unanimous Approval

5. Town Meeting Article 21 – Should PWC take a position on Southeast St/College St. rezoning

Vince O'Connor recommends Town Meeting approach the re-zoning with caution because of below, and do in concert with:

1. 20K appropriation by CPA to study E. Amherst Common
2. Block Grant of 2007 will also address this issue

Committee unanimously approves the following statement to Town Meeting: "The Public Works Committee takes no position on the zoning of the area in question, but advises Town Meeting to note that a formal study of the East Village Common, which extends south of College Street according to historical maps, is the subject of a Community Preservation Act funding request at this Town Meeting and likely will not be complete for at least a year."

6. Town Meeting Article 22 , Proposed Strawberry Fields Housing–

Michael Cann thinks it is not in PWC charge, but committee unanimously approves limited comments on the article. PWC position on Article 22 to inform Town Meeting that these issues are of concern: this area is unlikely to be served by public transportation, no sidewalks in area and poor traffic sightlines on Mill Lane.

Text of statement to Town Meeting: "The Public Works Committee takes no position on the zoning of the area in question, but advises Town Meeting to take the following public-works-related issues into account when making its decision: (a) There are no

sidewalks within half a mile of this site. (b) The area is not likely to be served by public transportation due to the presence of the railroad bridges on South East Street. (c) The sight lines for entering South East Street are particularly poor in this area due to hills and the railroad bridges. (d) Development of this area will necessarily increase pressure to pave Mill Lane and remove or reconfigure the railroad bridges, which the committee anticipates would be difficult or impossible and in any case expensive."

7. Discussed Town Meeting article concerning Genetic Engineered crops by Ben Grosscup with PWC

8. Discussed membership, 2 members are not showing up. What action should be taken to improve attendance? Rob to follow up on

Adjourned @ 9:15 PM